

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

RSC-01 NSC-05 /085 W

----- 106349

P R 140940Z NOV 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0622

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0414

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: NOV 11 AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSION OF
PLENARY STATEMENTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ITS NOV 11 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP (AHG) REVIEWED A DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE NOV 14 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT, WHICH CONTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE CRITIQUE OF THE EASTERN INITIAL STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL. THE GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED FUTURE WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENTS FOR THIS ROUND AND NOTED THE CZECHOSLOVAK REP'S BILATERAL COMMENT CHANGING HIS NOV 7 PLENARY REFERENCE TO "1970," TO "1975." IN DISCUSSION OF NOV 14 PLENARY STATEMENT, THE UK REP (ROSE) MADE CLEAR LONDON'S STRONG WISH TO

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AVOID CATEGORICAL AND UNDULY NEGATIVE TONE IN

ENUMERATING THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE POINTS
OF THE FIRST STEP PROPOSAL. AHG WILL CONSIDER A WORKING
GROUP DRAFT OF THE FULL PLENARY STATEMENT AT ITS
NOV 13 MEETING; WE UNDERSTAND FROM UK DEL THAT IT
WILL NEED EXPLICIT FCO APPROVAL OF TEXT THAT
EMERGES FROM NOV 12 WORKING GROUP MEETING. OTHER BUSINESS
AT AHG NOV 11 MEETING BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.
END SUMMARY.

CORRECTION TO NOV 7 CZECHOSLOVAK PLENARY STATEMENT

2. ROSE REPORTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN HAD TOLD HIM
THAT KLEIN'S NOV 7 PLENARY REFERENCE TO "1970" HAD BEEN
MISTRANSLATED, AND THAT THE WORDS IN QUESTION
(TEXT MBFR VIENNA 394) SHOULD READ: "TO BE
UNDERTAKEN ALREADY IN 1975". BEHREND'S COMPLAINED THAT
PLENARY CHAIRMAN (GDR REP OESER) HAD OVERSTEPPED HIS
ROLE BY CONGRATULATING SOVIET DEL ON NOV 7 NATIONAL
DAY, ON BEHALF OF ALL DELEGATIONS PRESENT, FOR THE GREAT
SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN SECURITY, ETC. THESE
REMARKS HAD BEEN CARRIED IN EVEN MORE LAUDATORY
TERMS BY EAST GERMAN ADN NEWS AGENCY.

DRAFT OUTLINE OF NOV 14 PLENARY STATEMENT

3. US REP INTRODUCED PLENARY OUTLINE, NOTING THAT
IT WAS DRAFTED PURSUANT TO AHG GUIDANCE, ADHERED TO
PRIOR TALKING POINTS FOR INFORMALS AND CONTRASTED
INITIAL REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL WITH NOV 8 (RATHER THAN
EARLIER INFORMAL) EASTERN PROPOSALS. US DEPREP
STRESSED THAT STATEMENT SHOULD BE AS CONCLUSIVE AS
POSSIBLE IN PRESSING EAST TO DROP OCT 15 PROPOSAL
IN ORDER TO AVOID PROLONGING EXCHANGES ON THIS TOPIC IN
PLENARIES AND OTHER MBFR FORA. HOWEVER, DRAFT
OUTLINE DOES SEEK TO PLUCK OUT POSITIVE ASPECTS OF
EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ALLIED USE.

4. UK REP QUESTIONED THE TONE OF THE OUTLINE, SAYING
IT WAS FRANK AND DIRECT, AS IN INFORMALS, RATHER THAN
ADOPTING MORE DIPLOMATIC STYLE OF PLENARY STATEMENTS. ROSE ALSO
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OBJECTED TO REFERENCES TO EASTERN STATEMENTS IN INFORMAL
MEETINGS. FINALLY, UK REP THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO COMMENCE
AND CONCLUDE THE STATEMENT WITH REFERENCE TO THE POSITIVE ASPECTS
OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL, IN ORDER TO AFFORD A SLIGHTLY
MORE POSITIVE TONE. US DEPREP SAID SOME EARLY REFERENCE
TO POSITIVE ASPECTS WAS ACCEPTABLE. BUT THE SEQUENCE OF
SUBSEQUENT ARGUMENTATION WAS IMPORTANT IN DEMONSTRATING
THROUGH POINT-BY-POINT COMPARISON WITH THE NOV 8, 1973

EASTERN DRAFT, THAT THE NEW PROPOSAL WAS NOT A COMPROMISE AS CLAIMED BY KLEIN. UK REP YIELDED ON THIS POINT, BUT PRESSED FOR SOFTENING OF PASSAGE READING "THE PRESENT EASTERN PROPOSAL IS IDENTICAL TO THE FIRST STAGE OF THE NOV 8 DRAFT IN ALL MAJOR RESPECTS." FRG REP (BEHREND) REPLIED THAT THE ONLY TWO POSITIVE ELEMENTS OF THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL WERE NOT EXCLUDED BY THE NOV 8 DRAFT. MOREOVER, THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL INTRODUCED NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN NOV 8 DRAFT, AND WHICH HAD BEEN DISCLAIMED BY SOVIET REP IN FIRST INTRODUCING THE PROPOSAL INFORMALLY. NETHERLANDS REP (DE VOS) POINTED OUT THAT NOV 8 EASTERN DRAFT IMPLIES NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS; ROSE ADDED THAT EASTERN REPS HAD REPUDIATED EVERYTHING SAID INFORMALLY SINCE MARCH AND COULD NOT BE HELD TO IT.

5. ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) SAID ALLIED STATEMENT SHOULD NOTE ABSENCE OF OVERALL GOAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. ROSE SAID EAST WOULD REPLY THAT ITS FIRST STEP PROPOSAL DOES NOT PURPORT TO DEAL WITH THE GOAL, ABOUT WHICH THERE WAS DIS-AGREEMENT AND WHICH WOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATED UNTIL THE SECOND PHASE. GROUP CONCLUDED THAT WORDING SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE EFFECT THAT PROPOSAL FAILING TO STATE GOAL OF NEGOTIATIONS IS UNACCEPTABLE. CHAIRMAN REFERRED OUTLINE TO WORKING GROUP, WHICH IS TO DRAFT FULL TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION AT NOV 13 AHG MEETING. COMMENT- UK DEL HAS TOLD US BILATERALLY THAT IT WILL, BEFORE AHG CONSIDERATION OF FULL STATEMENT, NEED LONDON'S APPROVAL OF TEXT THAT EMERGES FROM NOV 12 WORKING GROUP MEETING. END COMMENT.

USE OF PRESS GUIDANCE

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6. NOW THAT MANY DETAILS OF EASTERN PROPOSAL HAD BEEN PUBLISHED, CAGIATI QUESTIONED WHETHER GROUP SHOULD GIVE THOUGHT TO POSSIBLE REMARKS BY ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN AT BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOLLOWING NOV 14 PLENARY. BEHREND SAID THAT HE HAD HAD SO MANY PRESS INQUIRIES FOLLOWING THE INCORRECT HUNGARIAN PRESS ARTICLE THAT HE HAD ALREADY USED ALL THE CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE WITH JOURNALISTS. HE NOTED THAT PRESS INTEREST HAD DIED DOWN, HOWEVER, AND IT WAS NOT IN THE ALLIED INTEREST TO KEEP PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF FIRST STEP PROPOSAL ALIVE. US DEPREP AGREED, ADDING THAT PRESS TREATMENT WAS NOT ADVERSE TO THE WEST AND THAT ALLIES HAD REMINDED THE EAST AT NOV 5 INFORMAL TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING DETAILS TO THE PRESS. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RESERVE AHG PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE, IF NECESSARY, IN BACKGROUND INTERVIEWS. GROUP

AGREED.

FUTURE PLENARY STATEMENTS

7. ROSE NOTED THAT, FOLLOWING NORMAL SEQUENCE, ALLIES WOULD SPEAK ON NOV 21, WHICH WOULD TOTAL FIVE CONSECUTIVE STATEMENTS. US DEPREP CAUTIONED THAT IF THERE WERE NO EASTERN SPEAKER NOV 21, THERE WOULD BE NO PLENARY AND HENCE A POSSIBLE RISK OF PESSIMISTIC PRESS SPECULATION. GROUP AGREED TO PREPARE CONTINGENCY STATEMENT FOR NOV 21 PLENARY, BUT TO DEFER DECISION ON WHETHER TO DELIVER IT UNTIL AFTER NOV 14 PLENARY. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, AGREEMENT DRAFT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740328-0998
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741144/aaaabkup.tel
Line Count: 181
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: NOV 11 AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSION OF PLENARY STATEMENTS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005